

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7933

BILL NUMBER: HB 1510

DATE PREPARED: May 2, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Apr 29, 2001

SUBJECT: Voter registration.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (CCR Amended) This bill makes the following changes in election law:

(1) Requires the Election Division of the Secretary of State's office to maintain the statewide voter registration file (SVRF) so that the file is accessible by the Election Division and county voter registration offices through a secure connection over the Internet not later than July 1, 2004. Requires county voter registration offices to transmit required voter registration information to the Election Division over the Internet, in a manner and method prescribed by the Election Division, through a secure connection to the statewide voter registration file (SVRF), not later than July 1, 2004. Provides that the Election Commission may delay implementation of all or any part of the operation of the file by adopting a resolution that states the reasons for the delay and sets a new deadline for implementation. Requires the Election Division to format the file so that only the county voter registration office of a particular county is able to change data in the file for that particular county's voters. Provides that the Election Commission is not required to provide direct public access to the statewide voter registration file (SVRF) over the Internet.

(2) Requires the Indiana Election Division to make voter registration forms available on the Internet website maintained by the Division so that the forms can be downloaded.

(3) Requires the State Department of Health and the Department of Correction to make certain information concerning deceased voters and incarcerated individuals available to the election division electronically.

(4) Requires an individual registering to vote to provide a "voter's identification number" that is the same number as either the individual's Indiana driver's license number or the individual's Indiana identification card number. Requires precinct election officials to request of each voter at the polls the voter's identification number. Provides that a voter is not required to provide an identification number at the polls.

(5) Provides that a person is not disqualified from serving as a precinct election official because the person

is related to a candidate in that precinct, if the candidate is unopposed.

(6) Specifies when a candidate's committee statement of organization is to be filed.

(7) Specifies that write-in candidates are required to file all campaign finance reports.

(8) Revises language regarding ballot card colors.

(9) Resolves a conflict in statutes regarding public access to election materials.

(10) Provides a standard for determining the political party affiliation of a candidate who files a declaration of candidacy for a primary election or of an appointee to a board of a political subdivision. The bill provides that political affiliation is determined by either: (A) the political party in whose primary election the candidate or appointee most recently voted; or (B) the political party of the county chairman who certifies that the candidate or appointee is a member of that political party. Provides that in the case of a candidate who has never voted in a primary election, party affiliation is determined by any party claimed by the candidate.

(11) Provides that a county election board may adopt a resolution to authorize the circuit court clerk to establish satellite offices in the county where voters may cast absentee ballots before an absentee voter board. Requires the county election board to adopt such a resolution by unanimous consent of the entire membership of the board.

(12) Repeals obsolete sections of the voter registration statutes.

(13) Makes technical changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) (1) Currently, the Election Division of the Secretary of State maintains a temporary database which annually requires compilation. Any updates or error corrections require a complete rebuilding of the database.

In order to comply with the bill's provisions, the Division would require a centralized repository database server to support the submission, management, and reporting of voter registration data. The Election Division estimates the cost to fully implement the centralized database, that would house the SVRF in the Election Division, to be \$1.3 M. System support, site hosting, and maintaining bandwidth connectivity would be ongoing expenditures. The cost for administration and support could vary depending on whether the administration/support staff were employed via a private contractor, or if the Division were authorized to hire the necessary staff.

The processing of submissions by counties of voter registration data could be performed by Election Division staff or handled by contract with an outside vendor.

Further costs are expected for county connectivity to the SVRF (see *Explanation of Local Expenditures*). This bill makes no appropriation to implement the SVRF.

(2) The Indiana Election Commission currently has an Internet web page that would allow the posting of

voter registration forms. Given the online services already provided by Access Indiana to the Election Commission, there should be no new expenditure required to carry out this provision.

(3) The information required to be transferred to the Election Division from the State Department of Health (SDH) and the Department of Correction (DOC) concerning deceased and incarcerated individuals is already required to be collected by the SDH and the DOC. The information could be readily transferred by electronic mail at no increase to expenditure, given the SDH, DOC, and the Division have access to electronic mail and that the information is readily available.

(4) Currently, the voter registration form requests the Social Security number of an individual as allowed under the federal Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 552a). A space is provided on the voter registration form for this information.

This bill requires a voting applicant to provide their voter identification number (either the voter's drivers license number or identification card number). The individual may provide the last four digits of their social security number if they so choose, if the applicant has neither a drivers license or identification card number. This provision will require a change in the current registration form. The cost of changing and printing the form can be done within the current budget.

(5)-(10), (13) No Fiscal Impact.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) (1) The bill requires counties to begin transmitting voter registration data over the Internet by July 1, 2004. Counties could experience start-up costs for an Internet browsing PC or workstation and a printer, and ongoing costs for Internet access fees. Quest Information estimates the cost could be \$6,400 to a county without any of the above components. In addition, approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 in expenditures could be required if counties need software modifications in order to comply with the State repository/database.

The Election Division currently estimates one third of the counties would require all of the components above and could face expenditures of approximately \$8,000. Another third of counties have the equipment necessary, but lack Internet Access and could have expenditures ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Roughly another third, including larger counties such as Marion, Lake, and Allen, have all of the components required to send data already and would require minimal expense.

The Association of Indiana Counties reports, with forty-nine out of ninety-two counties responding, seventeen counties currently have Internet Access. Counties not responding to the survey included: Allen, Boone, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Lake, Marion, and Vanderburgh.

The State of Indiana has offered in the past used PC's at a substantial discount to qualified entities. If a county were to qualify, and the PC acquired were able to accept Windows 95 software, potentially some expenditure could be saved.

(4) The County Election Board would have to update the voter poll list sheet to include a column for the voter identification number. The cost of changing and printing the form can be done within the current budget of counties.

(11) *Satellite absentee ballot offices.* The bill allows the County Election Board the option to adopt a resolution to authorize the circuit court clerk to establish satellite offices in the County for voters to cast absentee ballots. A unanimous vote of the Board's entire membership is required, including the statement of the locations of the satellite offices and the hours at which absentee balloting may occur at the satellite offices. The county would incur additional expenditures for renting of a satellite facility. Facility rental expenditures could be offset if a satellite office were set up in a school or church. The county would also experience expenditures associated with each new election board per satellite facility to process absentee ballots.

Any impact that could occur from this provision is dependent upon county action.

(12) Under current law, the County Voter Registration Office (CVRO) is required to send an application for registration by mail to an applicant who submitted a photocopied application at the mailing address set forth on the application. The repeal of the provision could save resources by reducing the amount of mailings made by the CVRO.

(5) - (10), (13) No Fiscal Impact.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Division, Indiana Election Commission, Indiana State Department of Health; Indiana Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties, Precincts.

Information Sources: Linda Grass, Hancock County Clerk, (317) 462-1109; Indiana Election Division, (317) 232-3939; Travis Worl, Association of Indiana Counties, (317) 684-3710.